

# The Differences Between a Junior, Mid-Level, and Senior Developer

*Translation: 初级、中级和高级开发人员之间的差异*

## And what you can do to get to the next level

*Translation: 以及你能做些什么来达到下一个水平*

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Being a junior, mid-level, or senior developer doesn't solely have to do with the years of programming experience that you have. A junior developer can even be older than a senior developer. It all comes down to skill. This doesn't mean that a senior developer has to be an expert in everything, but it's safe to say that senior developers are far more skilled than junior and mid-level developers.

But more than just coding skills differentiate the senior developer from the mid-level and junior developer. So what exactly are the differences?

## Knowledge

Obviously the senior developer has far more knowledge than the junior and mid-level developer. Knowing design patterns, architecture, automating testing, performance, security, etc. is a good way for a junior developer to close the knowledge gap with the mid-level and senior developers.

*Translation: 显然，高级开发人员比初级和中级开发人员拥有更多的知识。对于初级开发人员来说，了解设计模式、体系结构、自动化测试、性能、安全性等是缩小与中级和高级开发人员知识差距的好方法。*

It's important to know how things in software development should be done. But just knowing all this stuff doesn't make you a senior developer. Knowledge isn't the biggest difference between developers—it's just one of the factors.

## Coding

Despite what most people think, coding is not about communication with a computer. Coding is about communicating with humans and instructing computers. Eventually, code

gets compiled and translated to zeroes and ones.

Code has to make sense for other developers that have work with it in the future. A new team that has never seen the code before should be able to open the code and start working on new features or bug fixes. This is where the big difference is between junior and senior developers.

I will leave out the mid-level developer in this comparison because the mid-level developer is kind of a gray area when it comes to coding skills. Obviously, it is somewhere in between the junior and senior. It probably leans more towards the senior side. This mainly has to do with experience, since mid-level developers have probably been through the whole development cycle at least once. They have made a lot of the most simple mistakes and learned from them.